

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections set forth in the Official Action dated November 7, 2002, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 through 13 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 12 being independent. Claims 1 and 3 through 13 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, without affecting their scope. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 12 and 13, and indicating that Claims 3, 4, 8 and 11 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has objected to the specification due to poor print quality and has requested a better readable/printable copy of the specification. Accordingly, a substitute specification is submitted herewith under separate cover to attend to the objection. No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 3, 4 and 10 were objected to for various grammatical, syntactical and structural reasons. Claims 3, 4 and 10 have been amended to attend to the objection. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) "as being anticipated by Oyamada" (see the November 7, 2002 Office Action at page 2, paragraph 5). However, there is no document of record in which an Oyamada is listed as an inventor. Applicant has attempted on multiple occasions to contact the Examiner -- by both telephone and in writing (see Letter Requesting Clarification of Office Action, filed on February 7, 2003) -- to clarify the basis of this rejection; however, such attempts have been fruitless. Accordingly, Applicant has proceeded on

the assumption that the basis of this rejection is actually U.S. Patent No. 5,512,927 (Okamoto), which was listed on the Notice of References Cited (Form PTO-892) attached to the November 7, 2002 Office Action, and not Oyamada as the rejection recites.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 1-193885 (Hamada et al.). Claims 6, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hamada et al. in view of Japanese Patent No. 10-340012 (Hasagawa). The rejections respectfully are traversed.

Before addressing the merits of the rejection, Applicants believe it will be helpful to review some features and advantages of the present invention. The present invention includes a speed setting means for setting a moving speed of an image bearing member based on the kind of recording material used and information indicative of a circumferential length of the pressing roller. By the virtue of the present invention, it is possible to reduce a variation in magnification (e.g., elongation) of an image regardless of the kind of recording material used or a variation in the circumferential length of the pressing roller.

In contrast, the Okamoto patent discloses that a speed of a photosensitive drum or conveying unit is controlled according to the sizes of recording paper and image forming area. Okamoto, however, fails to disclose setting a moving speed of the image bearing member based on the kind of recording material used and information indicative of a circumferential length of the pressing roller. This is because the Okamoto patent is not concerned with reducing the variation of image magnification.

The Hamada et al. patent discloses that the speed of a photosensitive drum or fixing apparatus is comparatively less when transferring an image onto a transparent sheet for an

overhead projector than when transferring an image onto normal paper. The Hamada et al. patent, however, fails to disclose that the speed of the photosensitive drum or fixing apparatus is changed based on information indicative of a circumferential length of the pressing roller. Nor does the Hamada et al. patent suggest that the speed of the photosensitive drum or fixing apparatus should be varied in order to reduce magnification variation of an image.

The Hasegawa patent discloses a technique of controlling the driving speed of a transfer drum or a fixing device according to a signal from a loop detection sensor, which detects the loop of transfer material between the transfer drum and the fixing device. This technique helps to prevent defects due to “image rubbing.” There is no disclosure, however, in the Hasegawa patent, of any structure corresponding to a speed setting means for setting a moving speed of the image bearing member based on the kind of recording material used and information indicative of a circumferential length of the pressing roller.

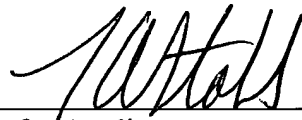
Applicant submits that neither Okamoto, Hamada et al., nor Hasegawa, whether taken singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the advantages or features of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1 and 12.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each of the dependent claims on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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